

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for authenticating ~~LDAP~~ referral searches that are generated responsive to a client receiving referrals from at least one directory server, comprising:
 - receiving a bind request from a ~~LDAP~~ referred search request;
 - searching ~~the~~ a local directory of a server for an entry corresponding to the distinguished name (DN) of the bind request;
 - authenticating the bind request if an entry for the bind DN is located within the local directory of the server;
 - checking a defined reference server for the prefix of the bind DN, if the bind DN is not found within the local directory of the server;
 - contacting the reference server for authentication, if the prefix of the bind DN is located on the reference server, wherein the reference server is contacted by the server;
 - and
 - denying the bind request if both the local directory and the reference server do not contain an entry corresponding to the bind DN.
2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the defined reference server contains:
 - root DN's; and
 - server location, to enable access by the client to the defined reference server without requiring a physical client account to reside on the defined reference server.
3. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for authenticating ~~LDAP~~ referral searches that are generated responsive to a client receiving referrals from at least one directory server, the computer program product comprising:
 - instructions for receiving a bind request from a ~~LDAP~~ referred search request;
 - instructions for searching ~~the~~ a local directory of a server for an entry corresponding to the distinguished name (DN) of the bind request;

instructions for authenticating the bind request if an entry for the bind DN is located within the local directory of the server;

instructions for checking a defined reference server for the prefix of the bind DN, if the bind DN is not found within the local directory of the server;

instructions for contacting the reference server for authentication, if the prefix of the bind DN is located on the reference server, wherein the reference server is contacted by the server; and

instructions for denying the bind request if both the local directory and the reference server do not contain an entry corresponding to the bind DN.

4. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 3, wherein the defined reference server contains:

root DN's; and

server location, to enable access by the client to the defined reference server without requiring a physical client account to reside on the defined reference server.

5. (Currently amended) A system for authenticating ~~LDAP~~ referral searches that are generated responsive to a client receiving referrals from at least one directory server, comprising:

means for receiving a bind request from a ~~LDAP~~ referred search request;

means for searching ~~the~~ a local directory of a server for an entry corresponding to the distinguished name (DN) of the bind request;

means for authenticating the bind request if an entry for the bind DN is located within the local directory of the server;

means for checking a defined reference server for the prefix of the bind DN, if the bind DN is not found within the local directory of the server;

means for contacting the reference server for authentication, if the prefix of the bind DN is located on the reference server, wherein the reference server is contacted by the server; and

means for denying the bind request if both the local directory and the reference server do not contain an entry corresponding to the bind DN.

6. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 5, wherein the defined reference server contains:

~~Root~~ root DN's; and

server location, to enable access by the client to the defined reference server without requiring a physical client account to reside on the defined reference server.